

Joint Nordic Press Release – February 2026

# Faster Access for New Medicines in the Nordic Region

Five Nordic HTA-bodies are urging companies to use the joint Nordic application route for new medicines, allowing applications to be submitted in several countries at the same time.

Companies preparing to launch new medicines in the Nordic markets should use the Joint Nordic Health Technology Assessment Bodies (JNHB) application process instead of submitting five separate national applications to the Nordic healthcare systems.

That is the message from the five Nordic decision-making bodies responsible for assessing new medicines in the region. In Denmark, this is the Danish Medicines Council; in Finland, COHERE – Council for Choices in Health Care; in Iceland, Landspítali – University Hospital of Iceland; in Norway, the Decision Forum and the Norwegian Directorate of Medical Products (DMP); and in Sweden, the NT Council and the Dental and Pharmaceutical Benefits Agency (TLV). The five decision-making bodies are involved in the Nordic JNHB collaboration (Joint Nordic Health Technology Assessment Bodies), which was re-launched in 2024 as a continuation of the FINOSE collaboration. The relaunch was carried out based on a request from the companies for a more consistent assessment in the Nordic countries even though negotiation and decisions on recommendations are carried out individually by each country.

*“With the possibility for companies to apply to have new medicines introduced into the healthcare systems of all five Nordic countries at the same time, we can pool our expertise and work faster. This makes it possible for patients to gain access to these medicines more quickly. Nevertheless, at the beginning of 2026 we have only one expected joint assessment in the pipeline. That is truly a shame, because it means that much of the countries’ valuable expertise is still tied up in parallel national processes. I therefore strongly encourage companies to apply through the joint Nordic application procedure, as it provides, among other things, the opportunity for a consistent assessment across the countries,”* says Birgitte Klindt Poulsen, Chair of the Danish Medicines Council.

The joint Nordic application procedure was also on the agenda at a recent conference in Denmark, where more than 50 representatives from the HTA-bodies in all five Nordic countries participated. Here, the five HTA-bodies agreed to issue a joint call encouraging companies to make use of the common application process.

## **Four joint Nordic assessments under the JNHB collaboration**

Since its launch in June 2024, JNHB has delivered four joint assessments, all completed within the 90-working-day timeframe. However, as of early 2026, only one joint assessment is expected, and none are currently underway.

*“I can only encourage companies to be more open to the joint procedure. Even though the four joint assessments completed so far resulted in non-recommendations, we saw that the common model works. All assessments were completed within the timeframe, there was effective knowledge sharing, and countries made decisions based on the same body of evidence. This strengthens quality, transparency, and predictability in the processes,”* says Marit Lind from the Decision Forum in Norway.

### **Growing need for Nordic cooperation**

In a time of rapid global changes in the pharmaceutical sector where prices, market conditions, and launch timelines are shaped by factors outside the Nordic region cross-border collaboration is becoming increasingly important, the Nordic decision-making bodies agree:

*“When the Nordic countries work together, the benefits are clear for patients, companies, and society. Processes become both faster and stronger, and this is particularly important in a global situation where market conditions for medicines change rapidly, and where it pays to stand shoulder to shoulder,”* says Mårten Lindström from the NT Council in Sweden.

Finland also supports more joint applications:

*“Joint work makes our assessments more robust. The more companies that choose the joint Nordic application route, the stronger our shared ability becomes to handle new treatments responsibly,”* says Sirkku Pikkujäämsä from COHERE.

Iceland likewise sees clear advantages in using the joint Nordic assessments:

*“As a small country, we benefit greatly from the Nordic region acting together. It gives us the same quality and pace as larger countries and makes a real difference for our patients,”* says Eva Ágústsdóttir from Landspítali – The National University Hospital of Iceland.

**Read more about the Joint Nordic Health Technology Assessment Bodies here: [Joint Nordic HTA-Bodies](#)**